

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /075 W
----- 061087

R 200825Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0776

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT, TW

SUBJECT: CAR FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO TAIPEI

REF: (A) TAIPEI 5679 (NOTAL), (B) BANGUI 1527

1. SUMMARY: DURING A RECENT FIVE-DAY VISIT TO TAIWAN, CAR FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCK MET WITH SENIOR GROC OFFICIALS AND VISITED KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN'S SECOND LARGEST CITY. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE WAS LARGELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE, MAKING NO MENTION OF THE CAR DECISION TO CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN TAIPEI WITH NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION FROM TOKYO. MOFA APPARENTLY HOPES TO DOWN-PLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DECISION, CLAIMING THAT IT WAS MADE BECAUSE OF CAR "BUDGETARY PROBLEMS" AND DOES NOT IMPLY ANY WEAKENING OF ROC/CAR RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING AN AUGUST 5-9 VISIT TO TAIPEI, CAR FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO FRANCK MET WITH MANY OF THE GROC'S MOST SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT YEN CHIA-KAN, PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO, FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN, ECONOMIC MINISTER SUN YUN-HSUAN AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
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CHIEN FU. AMBASSADOR UNGER HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET FRANCK

AT DINNER HOSTED BY SHEN IN FRANCK'S HONOR. WHILE IN KAOHSIUNG, FRANCK VISITED THE NANTZE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE, AN EXPERIMENTAL GARDENING RESEARCH CENTER, AN INTEGRATED STEEL MILL, AND THE CHINA SHIPBUILDING CORPORATION'S SHIPYARD.

3. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE (SEE SEPTTEL) ISSUED ON AUGUST 9 PRIOR TO FRANCK'S DEPARTURE MADE NO RPT NO MENTION OF THE CAR DECISION TO CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN TAIPEI WITH NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT THE CLOSING OF THE CAR EMBASSY, BUT CAR AMBASSADOR KBANDA HAS CONFIRMED CLOSING IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR.

4. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, MOFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS HUANG YUN-CHE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT CAR EMBASSY WOULD BE CLOSING BUT STRESSED THAT THIS DECISION WAS BASED ON CAR "BUDGETARY PROBLEMS" AND DID NOT IMPLY ANY DETERIORATION IN ROC/CAR RELATIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE ROC WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT LEVEL OF ACTIVITIES IN THE CAR.

5. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE BASIS OF THE CAR DECISION TO CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN TAIPEI, THIS ACTION -- ONCE IT BECOMES PUBLIC -- WILL BE SEEN HERE AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF TAIPEI'S INCREASING ISOLATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, IT IS UNLIKELY TO STIMULATE MUCH INTEREST OR ANXIETY HERE. THE LOCAL POPULACE HAS BEEN CONDITIONED TO A SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL SETBACKS, AND THIS ONE WOULD BE CONSIDERED MINOR IN COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS SETBACKS (E.G., OUSTER FROM THE UN AND BREAKING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BY JAPAN, THE PHILIPPINES, AND THAILAND). MOREOVER, THE PATTERN OF NON-RESIDENT REPRESENTATION SELECTED BY THE CAR IS NOT UNUSUAL HERE. SIX COUNTRIES -- BOLIVIA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA, AND PARAGUAY -- AT PRESENT HAVE NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADORS TO TAIPEI IN TOKYO.

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